

Poetry Series

Alvin Mingle
- poems -

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Alvin Mingle()

My name is Alvin Albert Okoe Mingle, born and raised in Accra, Ghana. I schooled in Achimota Secondary School where I took my GCE O & A Levels before proceeding to the United Kingdom. I undertook my tertiary education at the Loughborough University in Leicestershire and remained in the United Kingdom for most of my adult life.

My love for literature and poetry was kindled from infancy from reading with my mother. Teachers such as 'Ringo' have had a particular impact in my life and my love for the arts.

Dancing On My Grave

Day to Day the peace is shattered,

As your feet stamp on my grave,

The silence, once desired, is broken,

As you dance across the nave;

Why this solemn tune?

Why this endless song?

Even as you step all over my name,

REMEMBER;

It's because of you,

I remain the same.

Alvin Mingle

April 2020

Alvin Mingle

Don'T Cry

Do not cry for me

when the end draws nigh

I've lived my life

I've fought my fight

To some it may seem

a useless life

But I know in my heart

It was worth the fight

Alvin Mingle

(15th October 2014)

Alvin Mingle

Haze

Look to the East

Amidst the Haze

An outstretched hand appears

I ponder, I wonder

Is this the help I need?

I saunter closer and closer

And grasp the faceless arm

Until I disappear

Not to reappear

(Feb 2014, Ghana)

Alvin Mingle

Hermione

Her beauty knows no bounds
The timbre of her name resounds
Her eyes blaze like fire
Never to retire
She marches on in life
With her smile always alight
Her hands of love she stretches forth
Embracing all who knock on her door
The pain she bares we never can tell
As the passage of life meanders and turns
She stands as tall as the Baobab tree
Which withers not and many seasons see
Hermione, my Mother, the Diamond so dear
Your luster will continue to shine and glisten like Pearls

(13 April 2013, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

I Rise

I go to bed

I sleep, I cry

I see myself fly

To mountains & hills above

To valleys & lows below

I sleep, I cry

I wake up and I die

(Feb 2014, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

Light

Look into the Light
The stars are so bright
The layers of life peel away
Has this burden come to stay?

Look into the Light
The shadows begin to dance
Reality has suddenly become so bright
Surely, I'm not falling into a trance?

Look into the Light
The past transgressions haven't taken to flight
My burdens in Life, haven't ceased to Fight
Am I alone at this time of NIGHT?

Look into the Light
Bright stars shine so bright
My Life on earth is certainly not done
Look into the light, before the final flight.

(14 Feb 2013, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

Listen

I stand at the top and shout

But no one hears my cry

Although my words are clear and loud

My soul makes no sound

The burdens I bare

I only want to share

If only they would listen

They would hear me loud and clear

(Accra,19 June 2014)

Alvin Mingle

Mighty Are You Lord

I sat beneath the clear blue skies

And gazed at the beauty of your works

The mountain heights

And the roll of the waves

Bear testimony to your great might

The green meadows

And the blue skies

Sing praises to your name

The rising sun

And the sparkling stars

Also do the same

Oh, how great are your works O' Lord

Oh, how great are your works

(06 June 2014, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

My Angel

Strolling along the sandy beach
Warm winds blowing through her hair
I hold her hand and gaze above
and all I see is the halo around her head
She is my Angel divine
The one that leads me ashore
When the storms rage
And rivers overflow
She carries me
and takes me home
When the storm clouds rise
And the winds begin to blow
She wraps me in her linen cloth
then I know I'm home

Alvin Mingle
Accra 23 May 2015

Alvin Mingle

My Dear One

My confidant, my keeper, my friend

How cruel can death be?

Why have you taken him away from me so soon?

When we met, you promised to be with me forever.

You made me laugh, you made me smile,

You touched my heart like no one could

When you asked whether I could sleep alone when the time came,

I answered flippantly, not knowing it would come so soon.

Where are you my love? Where are you my love?

This pain is too much to bear.

My Dear One,

I promise to keep your love in my heart forever

I promise to keep your faith

I promise to be the person you wanted me to be

Till we meet again

Adieu.

(June 2014, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

Ode To 'H'

Deliver me O Lord
My heart cannot rest
Even as "H" crosses these fjords
Help us get thru this test

Deliver us O Lord
Let "H" find perfect rest
Even through these difficult times
Help us appreciate he tried his best

Deliver us O Lord
As we lay "H" to rest
May his journey not have been in vain
And may our pain not remain

Deliver us O Lord
May your love always remain
From now till our dying day
"H", our love will always stay the same

(March 2013, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

Prayer

Lord, grant me eyes to see

The hands that guide my feet by night

Lord, grant me ears to hear

Your words so dear

Lord, wipe away the tears

Why am I always in fear?

Lord, grant me grace to forgive

The LIPS that continue to clap and beat

Lord, grant me peace of mind

Help me Lord your Grace to find

(April 2014, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

Release Me

Separate us from the cords that bind us together

Release us from the pains that we share

Restore unto me

My one and true self

The paths that we take

In many diverse ways

Intermingle and intertwine

But should that be the case?

Release me from the pains that I bear

So my mind can be free

For the rest of the world to see

(Accra, 3 July 2014)

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Alvin Mingle

The 2 Muses - Urania & Calliope

THE 2 MUSES

They held my hands when I was weak,

Calliope, the muse of Poetry and Eloquence; I shared my writings with;

Urania, with her diadem of stars and celestial globe; I always sat at her feet;

My sisters Aurore Urania and Calliope Hermione,

The names one hardly ever knew,

Took me under their wings of love,

And treated me as their own.

Aurore, the goddess of Dawn; The Mother to us all

Hermione, daughter of Zeus; The one I truly adore

These Angels on Earth,

Hard tasks to perform,

Draw strength from God,

Who takes care of us all.

by OkoB 26 June 2015

Alvin Mingle

The Journey

It begins at dawn,

The palpable excitement as we ascend,

Banking left and banking right,

We rise & rise,

I close my eyes

I feel a gentle tap

A tall gentleman hovers over me.

I dream, I sleep

I suddenly feel

The impact of rubber on tarmac

The screeching of tyres

Sudden impact

I then realize

I'm Home.

Accra, 18 January 2015

Alvin Mingle

The Love Of A Daughter

You came into my life

At a time I needed you most

You counselled me

And made me believe

I could be whatever I wanted to be

Your impact in my life

Albeit so short

Will never be forgotten

Or never lost

My Father, my Teacher, my Mentor, my DAD,

I Thank YOU for all the joy you brought to my life

Although I hate to see you go

May your journey be peaceful

And your soul forever be at rest

(June 08,2014 Accra)

Alvin Mingle

The Stallion And Its Master

They pace in majestically
as they approach the field
Helmet's and armor gleaming
Tendons and muscles rippling
As they march across the field
the gaze of all descends
As they break into a gallop
Rider and Stallion become one
At the point of ascent
Inhibitions, beauty and confidence
morph into one, warts and all
Until the final descent
Stallion taking instructions once again
From its riding Master

(Okob) 23 May 2015

Alvin Mingle

The Totem Pole

Dancing around the Totem Pole

They turn here; they turn there

With their gaping mouths

They sing words

Piercing words which lick at the Flames

Surrounding the Totem Pole

(March 2014, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

The Warrior Queen

Some call her Operkoh Broni
We know her as the Major
The lone female Warrior
Amongst seven pillars of rock
She stands tall and proud
Running to and fro
As she leads the warrior tribes
Down the Lokko Road
To pay homage to her Nubian folk
As the red and black flags fly
Amidst the beating of the Obonu drums
The lone warrior begins to dance
Amidst the firing of musketry and guns
The lone Major becomes a graceful Swan

(April 13 2014, Accra)

Alvin Mingle

Torrential Rain

The rolling of Thunder
The clapping of Lightning
One eye opens and a tear drops
A second eye opens and another tear drops
Are these tears of joy or sorrow?
As the rains begin to fall
When the torrential rains end
And wash the sands away
I always wonder
Whether they washed my sorrows away
Torrential Rain come back and stay
Keep my feet dancing, day after day

Okob May 24 2015

Alvin Mingle

Where I Want To Be

The deep blue sea,
Velvet, Mauve, Cucumber, Cream
Held on the lawns of the Mount Nelson
Tea, Tea, Earl Grey Tea
Daffodils in bloom
Is this where I want to be?

Sun, Moon, Birds, Flight
Under the sky in Billabong Moon
Taste of fine Roebuck; Steaks on the fire
Orchids, Bougainvillia, Geraniums, Anthuriums
Flowers in bloom
Is this where I want to be?

Rain, Rain, torrential Rain
Trees and birds that sing
Dusty roads and places that sleep
Smiley, Smiley sheep heads that smile
Mountain, hills, valleys, seas
On the way to Table Bay
Is this where I want to be?

The Deep blue sea
Is where I want to be
Swirls of emotions
Tears of Joy
Sea Urchins, shells, frost flowers & bells
THIS is where I want to be

(Feb 2014, Accra)

Alvin Mingle